IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 61. (Canceled)

62. (Currently Amended) A crystalline form ~~according to claim 1~~ wherein said form is form M substantially in the absence of azithromycin dihydrate.

63. (Original) A crystalline form according to claim 62 wherein said form is characterized as containing 2-5% water and 1-7% 2-propanol by weight in a powder sample.

64. (Original) A crystalline form according to claim 62 wherein said form is further characterized as having a 13C solid state NMR spectrum comprising a plurality of peaks with chemical shifts of about 179.6 ppm, 41.9, 26.0 ppm, 16.3 ppm, 10.3 ppm, 9.6 ppm, 9.3 ppm, 7.7 ppm and 7.1 ppm.

65. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 62 wherein said azithromycin comprises less than 5% by weight of azithromycin dihydrate.

66. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 62 wherein said azithromycin comprises less than 4% by weight of azithromycin dihydrate.

67. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 62 wherein said azithromycin comprises less than 3% by weight of azithromycin dihydrate.

68. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 62 wherein said azithromycin comprises less than 2% by weight of azithromycin dihydrate.

69. (Original) A crystalline form of azithromycin according to claim 62 wherein said azithromycin comprises less than 1% by weight of azithromycin dihydrate.

70. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a crystalline form of azithromycin according to one of claims 62-69 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

71. - 109. (Canceled)

110. (Original) A method of preparing the crystalline form of claim 62 comprising the steps of dissolving azithromycin with isopropanol to form an isopropanol solution, cooling the isopropanol solution to below 15°C, adding water after the isopropanol solution has been cooled, precipitating azithromycin crystals and isolating the crystals.

111. (Original) A method according to claim 110 wherein the isopropanol solution is cooled to 10°C or below.

112. (Original) A method according to claim 110 wherein the isopropanol solution is cooled to 5°C or below.

113. (Original) A method according to one of claims 110 to 112 wherein the water is cooled prior to adding the water to the isopropanol solution.

114. (Original) A method according to claim 113 wherein the water is cooled to 20°C or below.

115. (Original) A method according to claim 113 wherein the water is cooled to 15°C or below.

116. (Original) A method according to claim 113 wherein the water is cooled to 10°C or below.

117. (Original) A method according to claim 113 wherein the water is cooled to 5°C or below.

118. (Original) A method according to claim 110 wherein the crystals are isolated within 5 hours of precipitation.

119. (Original) A method according to claim 110 wherein the crystals are isolated within 3 hours of precipitation.

120. (Original) A method according to claim 110 wherein the crystals are isolated within 1 hour of precipitation.

121. (Original) A method according to claim 110 wherein the crystals are isolated within 30 minutes of precipitation.

122. (Original) A method according to one of claims claim 110 to 112 further comprising the step of seeding the cooled isopropanol solution with crystals of the crystalline form of claim 62.

123. (Currently amended) A method of treating a bacterial infection or a protozoa infection in a mammal, fish, or bird which comprises administering to said mammal, fish or bird a therapeutically effective amount of crystalline azithromycin ~~according to claim 1 or an azithromycin mixture according to claim 86~~ form M.